from the front face. When member **35** is hinged over onto member **36**, the hooked member engages over a rib **39** along the edge of member **36**, as seen in FIG. **7**. The adhesive layer is seen at **40**.

FIG. **8** illustrates an embodiment for packaging a multiple of fiber pairs. In the particular example, the package is for three pairs but it will be appreciated that the number can vary. In this example, the members **45** and **46** are connected by the adhesive layer **47**, but a hinge can be provided by a thin portion, as in FIGS. **5**, **6** and **7**.

FIG. **9** illustrates an embodiment in which two members **50** and **51** are used. The two members are, in the example, of the same form, each member having a body portion **52** with a hook shaped member **53** extending upward normal to the front face. A layer of pressure sensitive adhesive **54** is on the front face of each member. Prior to use a protective cover or backing is positioned on the adhesive layer, but in FIG. **9** the protective cover has been removed and the two members closed over a spliced pair of fibers. The hook shaped members **53** interlock over the main body portions of the members.

FIGS. **10** and **11** illustrate a modification of the embodiment illustrated in FIGS. **1** to **4**, in which a small groove **60** is provided for the center section of each member. Such a groove extends between the grooves **14** and is of a dimension such that the adhesive may be slightly compressed when the package is closed, gripping the bare fiber ends. Such an arrangement may have advantages for some adhesives. The provision of a groove **60**, as illustrated in FIGS. **10** and **11**, can be applied to all of the various package forms described above.

What is claimed is:

1. A protective package for enclosing and protecting a fusion spliced pair of optical fibers, each fiber having an uncoated portion immediately adjacent to the splice and a coated portion spaced from the splice, the package comprising:

two elongate plastic members each having a front face;

an elongate groove in each front face at each end of each member;

a layer of pressure sensitive adhesive material extending over each said front face of each member and overlying said grooves;

the elongate grooves of a cross-section such that the grooves fit closely over said coated portions of said fibers, when said members are in face to face assembly, the adhesive material in contact with the coated portions of fibers in the grooves and in contact with the uncoated portions of the fibers adjacent to the fusion splice.

2. A package as claimed in claim **1**, said pressure sensitive adhesive material extending across both members and hingedly connecting said members.

3. A package as claimed in claim **1**, including a protective cover on said pressure sensitive material.

4. A package as claimed in claim **1**, said members connected at contiguous edges by a thin, deformable, portion, said deformable portion forming a hinge.

5. A package as claimed in claim **1**, including a hooked member extending from one member, said hooked member engaging over the other member when in face-to-face assembly.

6. A package as claimed in claim **1**, including a plurality of grooves at each end of each member, said grooves spaced apart laterally, for the reception of a plurality of spliced pairs of fibers in spaced apart side-by-side relationship.

7. A package as claimed in claim **4**, each member having a hook shaped member extending from said face, the hook shaped members being on opposite sides of the package in a face-to-face assembly and engaging over the opposed member.

8. A package as claimed in claim **1**, including a further groove in each member, said further groove connecting said elongate grooves at each end of each member, said further grooves each of a cross-sectional dimension to be a close fit over the uncoated portions of the spliced fibers and intervening adhesive material.

9. A packaged optical fiber splice comprising:

at least one pair of fusion spliced optical fibers in axial end-to-end alignment, each of said fibers having an uncoated portion immediately adjacent to the splice and a coated portion spaced from the splice;

two elongate plastic members in face-to-face assembly, said fibers positioned between said members;

a layer of pressure sensitive adhesive material on the face of each member, the adhesive material retaining the members in said face-to-face assembly;

each of said members having an elongate groove at each end, the grooves of a cross-sectional dimension such that they fit closely over the coated portions of said fibers and intervening adhesive material, said adhesive material also in contact with said uncoated portions of said fibers.

10. A packaged optical fiber splice as claimed in claim **9**, said plastic members hingedly connected along contiguous edges by a thin deformable hinge portion.

11. A packaged optical fiber splice as claimed in claim **9**, at least one of said members having a hook-shaped extension engaging over the other member.

12. A packaged optical fiber splice as claimed in claim **9**, each said member having a further groove connecting said elongate grooves, said further grooves being a close fit over uncoated portions of said fibers and intervening adhesive material.

13. A packaged optical fiber splice as claimed in claim **9**, comprising a plurality of pairs of spliced optical fibers in axial end-to-end relationship, said elongate members each having a plurality of elongate grooves at each end corresponding to said plurality of pairs of spliced optical fibers.

14. A protective package as claimed in claim **1**, said adhesive material being a modified acrylic adhesive material.

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